(b) Does not arise.

Foreign Satellite Channels

419. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry is aware of the Supreme Court Judgement on the issue of providing uplinking facilities to foreign satellite channels specially for sports;

(b) if so, the details of the salient points of the said judgement;

(c) whether his Ministery is considering to further liberalise its stand to guarantee uplinking for sports purposes; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be effective ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court in their judgement dated 9.2.95 in the case of Union of India vs Cricket Association of Bengal have, inter alia, held that airwaves are public property and it should be controlled and regulated by Public Authority. The salient features of the judgement are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) The Broadcasting Bill, 1997 introduced by the Government in Lok Sabha on 16th May, 1997 provides for permitting private broadcasting in the country. The uplinking facility for purposes of broadcasting would obviously be a natural corollary as and when the private broadcasting is permitted as proposed in the Bill.

The Bill is at present under consideration of the Joint Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament.

Statement

Judgement delivered by the Supreme Court in the case of Union of India Versus Cricket Association of Bengal

The salient features of the two separate but concurring judgements delivered by the Supreme Court of India on 9.2.95 in the above case are :

(i) Airwaves or frequencies are a public property whose regulation should be controlled and regulated by a public authority representative of all section and interests in the society.

(ii) It is the fundamental right of a citizen to use the best means of imparting and receiving information and as such to have access to telecasting for the purpose. This right is, however, not absolute and is liable to restrictions being imposed (a) by virtue of the use of a public property (airwaves) and (b) in terms of the provisions of Article 19 (2) of the Constitution.

(iii) The broadcasting media should be under the control of the public as distinct from Government. It should be operated by a public statutory corporation or corporations, as the case may be, whose constitution and composition must be such as to ensure its/their impartiality in political, economic and social matters and on all other public issues.

(iv) Public broadcasting is implicit in Article 19 (1) (a) of the Constitution but private broadcasting is not.

(v) It is for Parliament to decide whether private broadcasting should be allowed or not. If allowed it should not be left to market forces to ensure wide variety of voices enjoying access to it.

[Translation]

Programmes for Additional Power Generation

420. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the programme meant for increasing additional power generation in the country are lagging much behind their targets;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to accelerate the pace of additional power generation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) During the year 1996-97, the energy generation target vis-a-vis Actual generation is given below :

(Figures in MU)

Category	1996-97		
	Target	Actual	% Achievement
Thermal	317000	316869	100.0
Nuclear	7950	9010	113.3
Hydel	75050	68609	91.4
Total	400000	394488	98.6

The shortfall in generation was mainly due to low hydro generation due to less availability of water in reservoirs.

(c) and (d) Amonst the measures being undertaken for increasing power generation are higher utilisation of installed capacity; reducing auxiliary power consumption; reducing the transmission and distribution losses; additional generation from the existing power stations through renovation and modernisation and life extension; expeditious completion of the ongoing projects; expediting fresh investment starts and construction of missing transmission lines in addition to system improvement.

[English]

TV Relay Centre in Gujarat

421. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Doordarshan Relay Centre which was installed in 1995 at Dharangadhard in Gujarat remains inoperative due to lack of facilities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the above relay centre is likely to be equipped with power generating set and other basic facilities so as to keep it fully operative round the year ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Transmission from the Low Power TV transmitter (LPT) at Dharangadhra, which was commissioned on 5.12.1994, has been disrupted time and again due to power supply failure. A diesel generator set has since been procured for the LPT. The generator set, when installed at the LPT, would provide alternate power supply, in case of breakdown in normal power supply, for uninterrupted transmission.

Schemes for Export of Steel

422. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the schemes chalked out for the export of steel during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the shortfall in the required production target would be met through assistance from Non-Government sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the programmes which have been undertaken relating to research and development in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (c) The working Group on Iron & Steel Industry for the IX Five Year Plan has projected an export potential of 6 million tonnes of steel by 2001-2002 which is the terminal year of the IXth Plan.

The Working Group has projected a demand of 38.68 million tonnes of finished carbon steel, including export potential of 6 million tonnes, by 2001-02 against which projected availability is 38.01 million tonnes. The shortfall is expected to be met through imports.

(d) Besides in-house R&D units of steel producers, Steel Research in the country is also being pursued at academic institutions, National Laboratories etc.

Construction of Link Roads in Assam with World Bank Assistance

423. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Assam have drawn up any plan for the development of infrastructure in the State with the World Bank's assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the link roads are also likely to be constructed in all villages in a phased manner under the proposed plan in the State;

(c) the present status of the proposal; and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government thereto ?